

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NASSAU 000577

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

STATE FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, PRM, IWI, WHA/PCC

STATE FOR USAID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [ASEC](#) [PREF](#) [ELAB](#) [BF](#)

SUBJECT: BAHAMAS - THRID ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT

REF: A) STATE 22225

OVERVIEW

1. The Bahamas, although rife with alien and drug smuggling, has no indications of being a country of origin, transit, or destination for international trafficking in men, women, or children. Post discussed this issue with governmental sources including the Foreign Ministry, The Department of Labor, the Royal Bahamian Police Force, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Immigration, as well as NGOs such as the Red Cross, Amnesty International and NOWAB, the national women's rights organization. None had any evidence of trafficking in persons as defined by reftel A. Post believes these sources to be highly credible, as we have worked closely with them in the past and they have provided accurate information.

PREVENTION

2. Should anti-trafficking of persons become an issue in The Bahamas, The Royal Bahamian Police Force, the Departments of Immigration and Labor and the Attorney General's Office would all be involved. The Bahamas has not instituted any anti-trafficking information or education programs because trafficking in persons has not become a significant problem. To its credit, the government promotes women's rights and Bahamian women play a prominent role in government and private businesses. Bahamian children, required by law to remain in school until the age of 16, generally adhere to this rule and therefore are not as vulnerable to human traffickers who prey on inactive young children.

3. National finances are limited, but the Bahamian government would be willing and able to support prevention programs if trafficking in person in persons was identified as a significant problem. Since neither the NGO community nor the government has recognized trafficking as a significant issue, little to no interaction on this issue exists between them. However, the government and the NGO community have a cordial and cooperative relationship on other issues.

4. The Bahamas, comprised of more than 700 islands covering more than 700 miles, is as an extremely porous nation. With multiple ports of entry - formal and informal -- The Bahamas faces a chronic border control problem. For centuries smugglers of all types have used the island nations. Illegal immigration and drug trafficking are significant problems in the Bahamas. The government devotes serious effort, given limited resources to detecting, monitoring and interdicting illegal immigrants and works cooperatively with American anti-drug forces to interdict narco-traffickers.

INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS

5. The Bahamas does not have a law specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons. However, traffickers can be prosecuted under Title XIX of the penal code - Crimes Against Females, and of Kidnapping and Abduction - for attempts to procure any female by threats of intimidation, false pretenses or by administering drugs. There are also provisions against forcibly taking or detaining a female or abduction of females. Similar laws apply to child abduction cases. Prison terms range from two years to life in prison, depending on the crime committed. The penalties for rape or forcible

sexual assault range from a minimum of seven years to a maximum of life imprisonment. Taken together, these laws are adequate to cover the full scope of trafficking in persons, if necessary.

16. In June 2001, the government ratified ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor. The CGOB is a party to the Rights of the Child Convention, but not the Sale of Children Protocol. The CGOB is not a party of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

17. The Bahamian government does not provide funds to NGOs to protect and assist trafficked person because there is no little if any evidence of human trafficking. Analogously, the government does not provide specialized training for government officials in the provision of assistance to trafficked victims, nor does it emphasize the issue with its consulates and embassies abroad. Children frequently are amongst those illegal immigrants who are detained in The Bahamas, including unaccompanied minors. The Department of Immigration has procedures in place to protect these children and to deal with their special needs.

Blankenship